

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3905
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
MAINTAINING OF CELLULAR TOWERS
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to formulate any scheme to hire and maintain cellular towers for its mobile telephony operations in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the BSNL has now decided to outsource hiring and maintenance of such towers from independent third-party vendors in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has already formulated a scheme to hire cellular towers for its mobile telephony operations in the country. However, maintenance of hired cellular towers is being done by the owner itself.
- (c) So far, BSNL has signed the agreement for hiring of cell towers from one telecom service provider (M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.) and six independent infrastructure providers viz. M/s GTL Infrastructure Ltd., M/s Aster Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., M/s Quipo Telecom Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., M/s Essar Telecom Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. M/s TVS Interconnect System Ltd., and M/s XCEL Telecom Pvt. Ltd.